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To whom it may concern,

I object to draft policy DM BG16 in the Draft Enfield Local Plan. This allocates Firs Farm Wetlands (Site ID SA59) as a site for burial and / or crematorium use. I oppose this policy because:

1. Firs Farm wetlands is a vitally important community resource, essential to the health and well-being of the local people in many ways.
2. The draft Policy directly contradicts Strategic Policy SP CL4 in the draft Local Plan. This identifies Firs Farm as facilitating and contributing towards developing sport and leisure facilities in Enfield.
3. The proposal will significantly affect the local Site of Interest for Nature Conservation, and reduce the biodiversity and nature conservation interest of Firs Farm wetlands, contrary to several other policies in the draft Local Plan.
4. The proposal will reduce the effectiveness of the flood alleviation provided by Firs Farm Wetlands, which Enfield Council has spent more than £1 million to provide.
5. The proposal will adversely affect the environment and local traffic, and this has not been properly considered in the integrated impact Assessment of the draft Local Plan.
6. The policy introduces uncertainty into the future use of Firs Farm wetlands that jeopardises funding for projects secured by local community groups (e.g., from Thames Water) that have been endorsed and supported by Enfield Council.

I call on the Council to remove all reference to Firs Farm wetlands from Policy SP CL4. The loss of a major supermarket in the area will force people to drive further. This would especially affect elderly and disabled residents and increase car usage on local roads • No supporting community infrastructure planned which will lead to an overstretch of existing facilities such as schools, doctors' surgeries, dentists • With the Fords Grove car park going and 14% of car parking on Winchmore Hill Broadway having gone, this development will lead to a further loss of revenue to local shops leading to potential closures Impact on local residents • The increase in vehicles on the road from potential residents of this development, will increase carbon monoxide levels which will impact locals and especially school children at Highfields school Environmental • This development will lead to the destruction of habitat and woodlands – the site is home to at least three different species of woodpecker (greater/lesser spotted and green varieties) as well as trees with protection orders (poplars and oak trees) • In 1986, the Secretary of State allowed planning permission for Sainsburys to be built with the condition that the green space was retained for community use • The green space is especially useful for residents who live in the surrounding flats and do not have gardens • The area is used by families and elderly alike, which contributes to the health and wellbeing of all residents of Enfield Other issues • This development will need to offer housing in keeping with the character of existing housing in Winchmore Hill. However, Enfield residents require larger, affordable family housing which this development will not be able to offer. • Inappropriate choice of site given the close proximity of existing traditional historical properties. • This development will lead to an over development of the area given the recent and future developments along Green Lanes - Travis Perkins, Capitol House etc • There will be construction vehicle disruption and increased building work traffic on a road (Green Lanes) already congested especially at peak times • There will be an impact on the skyline of Enfield and not in keeping with the existing character of the area.

I hope you take all of these points into consideration when deciding if you should go ahead with these plans.

